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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/543,029	07/21/2005	Emmanuel Legrand	047578/294906	9192
826	7590	10/12/2006	EXAMINER	
ALSTON & BIRD LLP BANK OF AMERICA PLAZA 101 SOUTH TRYON STREET, SUITE 4000 CHARLOTTE, NC 28280-4000			PAYER, HWEI SIU CHOU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/543,029	LEGRAND, EMMANUEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hwei-Siu C. Payer	3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

The preliminary amendment filed on 7-21-2005 has been entered.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

- (1) On page 2, line 9, "Documents ... " is not understood.
- (2) On page 6, line 19, reference numeral "1100" is not found in any drawings.
- (3) On page 7, line 10, "in particular when, when" should read --in particular, when--.
- (4) On page 11, line 16, "three strands" should read --four strands-- (see Fig.8).
- (5) On page 11, line 22, "in the light of" should read --in light of--.
- (6) On page 13, line 22, "outlet opening 115" should read --inlet opening 115-- since through which the cutting string is inserted (see page 14, lines 23-25 of the specification).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims Objection

Claims 1-13 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- (1) In claim 1, line 3, "an exit region" should read --an inlet region-- (note the above objection to the specification).

(2) In claim 10, line 3, "the string outlets" should read --the string inlets-- (note the above objection to the specification).

Appropriate correction is required.

Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(1) In claims 1 and 13, line 1, "or similar" is vague and indefinite.

(2) In claim 1, lines 7 and 8, "said inner edge" lacks antecedent basis.

(3) In claims 1 and 4-7, "the curved portion" has no clear antecedent basis.

(4) In claim 13, line 1, "such as" is vague and indefinite.

Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 6-10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Rouse (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,146).

Claims Rejection - 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rouse (U.S. Patent No. 4,756,146) in view of Morabit et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,816).

Rouse shows the claimed invention except it is not clear whether or not the cross-section of the cutter string (2) is polygonal.

However, cutter strings having a polygonal cross-section are well known in the art as evidenced by Morabit et al.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time this invention was made to select a well-known cross-sectional shape such as "polygonal" for Rouse's cutting string.

Regarding claim 12, it is noted Rouse's passageway (14/16) is about 0.170 inches (i.e. 4.318 mm) which is capable of receiving a cutting string having a width greater than about 3 mm as claimed.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3 and 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art Citations

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gullett, Jones et al., Proulx et al. and Moore are cited as art of interest.

Point of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hwei-Siu C. Payer whose telephone number is 571-272-4511. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Boyer Ashley can be reached on 571-272-4502. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for official communications and 571-273-4511 for proposed amendments.

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H Payer
October 4, 2006

10-1 Payer

Hwei-Siu Payer
Primary Examiner